Please amend Claims 1, 8, 9, and 12-15, as follows.

Please cancel Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claim 21.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush, wherein tufting holes formed in a tufting part are elliptic or rectangular, a lengthwise direction of the tufting holes is along the direction of the handle length, and the tufting holes are inclined, in directions perpendicular to lengthwise directions of the handle length, toward a tufting surface so as to have tufts implanted therein support one another,

wherein inclination from a vertical direction of inclined tufting holes is 2 to 10°,

an anchor that is driven into a tufting base in a folded part of the tuft that has been folded in a center in its lengthwise direction is driven into the tufting hole so that it is almost parallel to a center line along a lengthwise direction of the tufting hole within a range of ±10° and an opening surface area of the tufting hole is divided into two equal parts in order to embed and support said tufts in the tufting hole,

there are a plurality of converging blocks of a pair of two tufts facing and supporting one another by being implanted in the tufting holes, and

an end portion of each tuft that has been implanted is worked into a V-shape, inclined faces of which intersect in an angular peak directed in the direction in which said tufts support one another.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A toothbrush according to Claim 1, wherein monofilaments that form tufts to be implanted in the tufting holes have a rectangular cross section, a direction of a long side of this cross section being along the lengthwise direction of the tufting holes.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 1, wherein converging blocks are at least at a front or a back in the lengthwise direction of a tufting base.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 1, wherein a next row of converging blocks is positioned behind a space that is formed between converging blocks in a front row in the direction of handle length.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, wherein the

centers of the tufting holes are not lined up on one straight line in the direction of handle length.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to any one of the Claims 1 ~~or 3 through 9~~ , 5, 8, 9, and 12, wherein tufting holes account for 10 to 30 mm in a direction of handle length and 5 to 15 mm in a direction of handle width.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to any one of Claims 1 ~~or 3 through 9~~, 5, 8, 9, and 12, wherein the tufting holes are almost rectangular and a short side of these almost rectangular tufting holes has dimensions of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, while a long side has dimensions of 1.5 to 5.0 mm.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A toothbrush according to any one of Claims ~~3 through 9~~ 1, 5, 8, 9, and 12, wherein a distance at a base between the tufts that form a pair and make up converging blocks is 0.2 to 4.0 mm.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (New): A toothbrush according to any one of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 12, wherein there are five rows of tufts in the lengthwise direction of the tufting base, with rows one and five forming one converging block in a center in a direction of width of a tufting base, rows two and four forming two converging blocks on either side sandwiching the center in the direction of width of the tufting base, and row three forming one converging block at the center in the direction of width of the tufting base, and there is one independent tuft, each inclined so that it is in the same direction as the tufts that form said converging block, but its end portion does not touch the converging block, to each outside of said converging block.